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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,573	12/22/2004	Kurt Blechinger	BLECHINGER ET AL-IPCT	6846
25889	7590	12/31/2007	EXAMINER	
WILLIAM COLLARD COLLARD & ROE, P.C. 1077 NORTHERN BOULEVARD ROSLYN, NY 11576			SHAW, CLIFFORD C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1793	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/31/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/518,573	BLECHINGER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Clifford C. Shaw	1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27,34-40 and 45-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27,34-40 and 45-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1.) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2.) Claims 27, 34-40, and 45-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dodge et al. (6,795,778). Figure 8 and the discussion at columns 12-13 in Dodge et al. (6,795,778) disclose a method and apparatus with features claimed, including: detecting operating states at 810; processing the detected states at 820, 830, and 840; transmitting messages to external receivers at 860. In regard to the language in independent claims 27 and 40 specifying certain operation states, note that Dodge et al. (6,795,778) teaches monitoring at least the following operation states: welding current in figure 4 and at column 4, lines 35-46; motor overcurrent at the table in figure 4; and visually detected data as discussed at column 4, lines 35-

46. In regard to claim 51, see figure 3, the sixth row of the table wherein a thermostat is disclosed. In regard to claim 52, note the discussion of a camera in column 12, lines 28-31. The claims differ from the teachings of Dodge et al. (6,795,778) in calling for: processing the detected states “according to stored specifications” and comparing the operating states with the stored state; and in calling for a “standardized interface” to transmit the detected operating states in claims 34 and 45. These differences do not patentably distinguish over the prior art. In regard to storing specifications and comparing the stored state to an operating state, it is considered obvious that the determination of an alarm or fault condition in Dodge et al. (6,795,778) (as for example in element 840 of figure 8) must obviously involve a stored value or state and a comparison as claimed as this would be a convenient manner to determine the existence of a fault or error. In column 5, lines 10-15, the patent to Dodge et al. (6,795,778) suggests that an overcurrent can be determined by comparison with a stored threshold value and it would have been obvious to have used this general approach with any suitable alarm or fault condition in the system of Dodge et al. (6,795,778). In regard to claims 34 and 45, the output of the sensors in the system of Dodge et al. (6,795,778) must be converted to a format useable by the data processing system. It is considered obvious that this conversion constitutes a “standardized interface” because the requirements of the data processing system must be standard to some extent (at the very least, the system would obviously be standardized around a binary format).

3.) Applicants’ “Remarks/Arguments” attached to the amendment filed on 10/23/2007 have been given careful consideration, but are not persuasive. The amendments to claims 27 and 40 that specify particular operation states do not distinguish over the prior art. The patent to

Application/Control Number:
10/518,573
Art Unit: 1793

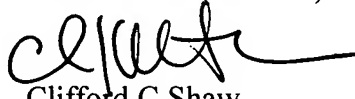
Page 4

Dodge et al. (6,795,778) discloses at least several of the operating states listed, satisfying the claim language.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Clifford C Shaw at telephone number 571-272-1182. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday of the first week of the pay period and on Tuesday through Friday of the second week of the pay period.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jonathan J. Johnson, can be reached at 571-272-1177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Clifford C Shaw
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1793

December 26, 2007